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A positive resist composition, having a superior resolution as well as good resist performances such as is described and includes sensitivity, depth of focus and profile, which comprises a novolac resin, a radiation-sensitive quinonediazide compound and a thioxanthone compound represented by the following formula (I):

wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ independently represent hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, carboxyl or alkoxycarbonyl is provided.